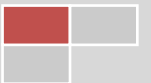


2025

City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan

Introduction



City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2025

Welcome to the City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2025. Chapter 163 of the Florida Statutes requires all cities and counties in the State of Florida to maintain a comprehensive plan providing a long range (10 to 20 years) vision of future development and redevelopment. The Plan is required to be in accordance with the Florida Administrative Code. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunities requires evaluations and appropriate updates to the comprehensive plan in a seven year cycle known as the Evaluation and Appraisal Review (EAR). The City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2025 is a result of the recommendations from the last major evaluation, the 2003 City of Punta Gorda Evaluation and Appraisal Report.

The City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2025 has been redesigned in an effort to be “user friendly”. Each chapter has been color coded for easier reference. The ten (10) sections included in the 2025 plan are briefly described below:

Section 1

- ❖ The ***Future Land Use Element*** designates areas within the City suitable for residential, commercial, recreational, conservation, preservation and public development. It is considered the most important element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan. This element covers a 5-10 year planning timeframe, provides future population projections and defines level of service issues.

Section 2

- ❖ The purpose of the ***Conservation and Coastal Management Element*** is to plan, promote and manage the conservation and protection of the City’s natural resources. It is important for the City to plan for coastal development in such a way that development mitigates risk, maximizes economic value, and conserves coastal ecosystems. The element addresses measures to protect human life and limit public expenditures in areas that are subject to destruction by natural disaster.

Section 3

- ❖ The purpose of the ***Infrastructure Element*** is to provide for necessary public facilities and services correlated to future land use projections. The element is divided into three (3) sections:
 - a. The ***Potable Water and Sanitary Sewer Section*** outlines the City’s existing conservation programs and practices and identifies additional future efforts and programs that the City plans to evaluate to determine their applicability and likelihood of success in decreasing the City’s potable water demand.
 - b. The purpose of the ***Solid Waste Section*** is to ensure that necessary sanitation facilities and

services are in place to provide for the needs of current and future populations in the City of Punta Gorda. It also details the City's curbside collection and disposal process services for solid waste, recyclables, yard waste and hazardous waste.

- c. The *Stormwater Management Section* identifies operating responsibilities of stormwater management facilities, geographic service areas, predominant types of land uses, the design capacity of the stormwater management facilities, current demand, and the level of service provided by the facilities.

Section 4

- ❖ The *Housing Element* evaluates the City's housing inventory and provides guidance in developing policies to meet the City's existing and future housing needs. The Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOP) provide a complete range of housing options to include moderate, low, and very low income households, group homes, foster care facilities, and households with special housing needs.

Section 5

- ❖ The *Recreation and Open Space Element* provides for a system of public and private recreation and open space sites which are available to all City's residents and visitors. Punta Gorda's long term goal regarding recreation and open space facilities are directed towards the coordination of public and private recreation resources to meet demand; to provide public parks appropriately located to the population they are intended to serve; to coordinate the City facilities with those of other governments; and to acquire important open space systems that protect property from storm surge events and/or preserve important habitats.

Section 6

- ❖ The *Community Facilities & Services Element* identifies and describes the locations and arrangements of the City's facilities and the services provided. The facilities and services may be considered the "social infrastructure" which is integral to the standard of living enjoyed by the City's residents and visitors. Included in this section are general government administration and operations, utilities, fire and emergency medical services, police, and all other City facilities and services.

Section 7

- ❖ The **Transportation Element** assesses the needs for current and future transportation systems, establishes level of service guidelines, provides strategies for alternative modes of transportation, and sets standards for the provisions of public facilities.

Section 8

- ❖ The **Public School Facilities Element**, a new element required by State Statute, focuses on school planning. This element requires local governments to adopt a school concurrency system which ensures the coordination between the City, County, and School Board in planning and permitting development that affects school capacity and utilization rates. The Florida Statute mandating the **Public School Facilities Element** also requires the City to update their existing Interlocal Agreement (a partnership between the City, County and local School Board, that establishes interlocal coordination efforts between the agencies) and requires amendments to the existing **Capital Improvements Element** and the **Intergovernmental Coordination Element**.

Section 9

- ❖ The **Intergovernmental Coordination Element** facilitates the comprehensive planning process through the coordination of local development and growth management with Charlotte County, adjacent municipalities, and state and federal agencies. This element will coordinate the processes and procedures with the various entities to ensure compatibility. If incompatible goals, objective & policies of development are identified, it is the intent of this element to assist in the process for resolving such issues.

Section 10

- ❖ The **Capital Improvements Element** considers the need for and the location of public facilities in order to encourage the efficient use of those facilities. The element:
 - evaluates the need for public facilities within the City;
 - estimates the cost of improvements for which the local government has fiscal responsibility;
 - analyzes the fiscal capability of the local government to finance and construct improvements;
 - guides the funding of improvements through adopted policies; and

- e. provides the scheduling of funding and construction of improvements in a manner necessary to ensure that capital improvements are provided when required based on needs identified in the other comprehensive plan elements.

- d. strengthens relationships with educational establishments and increase technology
- e. utilizes the vast resources as a catalyst for increasing economic development, cultural heritage and sustainable tourism.

Section 11

- ❖ The *Historic Element* considers the need for preserving and protecting the City's past which includes historical, architectural, maritime, and archaeological sites. The element:
 - a. furthers the City's founder, Isaac Trabue's, vision of preserving land along the harbor for the public;
 - b. identifies historical, architectural, maritime, and archaeological and ecological sites of significance;
 - c. educates the population on the importance of historical preservation;

City staff invites you to read through the elements and provide comments and/or suggestions to The City of Punta Gorda's Chief Planner at:

UrbanDesign@ci.punta-gorda.fl.us

The City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2025, can also be viewed on line at:

http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/departments/commdevelopment/comp_plan.htm